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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/057,523

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George M. White

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EXAMINER

LERNER, MARTIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/057,523

Applicant(s)

WHITE ET AL.

Examiner

Martin Lerner

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 59 to 79 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 59 to 79 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 59, 62, 64, 66, 69, 71, 73, 76, and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hughes et al.*

Regarding independent claim 59, *Hughes et al.* discloses a system for accessing a remote voice recognition resource on a server from a telephone, comprising:

“a communication module operable to receive input from the remote device and to transmit data to the remote device for provision in an output response to a user of the remote device” – server system 300 is attached to the LAN 250 via network interface card 310 (column 5, lines 37 to 50; Figure 1); server system 300 is equivalent to “a communication module”; a recognition resource remains in a Wait_Event state, and processes an incoming telephone signal when a recognized word or phrase is spoken (“operable to receive input from the remote device”) (column 8, lines 14 to 33; Figure 3); a prompt is played out to the caller (“to transmit data to the remote device for provision

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in an output response to a user of the remote device”), via a state table action (column 8, lines 59 to column 9, line 2; column 9, lines 29 to 45: Figure 4); a prompt is “data transmitted to the remote device”;

“wherein the communication module is further operable to detect an additional user input from the remote device and in response, to cause the remote device to cease provision of the output response to the user” – for barge-in, an application can specify that prompt output should be terminated in response to voice input (column 9, lines 29 to 45: Figure 4); barge-in, or cut-through, is a facility that is particularly useful for a voice processing application such as voice mail, where the caller is likely to encounter the same sequence of prompts repeatedly, and accordingly may be able to select a desired option without needing to listen to all of the prompt (column 8, line 59 to column 9, line 2);

“a processing module coupled to the communication module, the processing module operable to perform speech recognition on the received input” – speech recognition software 320 resides on, and is supported by, server system 300 (column 5, lines 37 to 50: Figure 1).

Regarding independent claims 66 and 73, *Hughes et al.* discloses a method and computer program product for accessing a remote voice recognition resource on a server from a telephone, comprising:

“receiving an audio input from a remote device, the audio input based on speech input issued by a user” – a recognition resource receives an incoming telephone signal

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of a word or phrase (column 8, lines 13 to 33: Figure 3); a word or a phrase spoken by a caller is "an audio input" and "speech input issued by a user";

"performing speech recognition on the received audio input" – speech recognition software on server system 300 processes the incoming telephone signal, until it has recognized the word or phrase spoken, and returns recognized text; an application remains in a Wait_ Event state until a word or phrase is received (column 8, lines 13 to 33: Figure 3);

"transmitting data for provision in an output response to the user" – a prompt is played out to the caller (column 8, line 59 to column 9, line 2; column 9, lines 29 to 45: Figure 4);

"detecting an additional audio user input from the remote device" – a caller is allowed to make a spoken interruption of the prompt in a barge-in or cut-through facility (column 8, line 59 to column 9, line 2);

"transmitting a signal to the remote device to cause the remote device to cease provision of the output response to the user" – a state table action allows an application designer to specify that prompt output should be stopped in particular eventualities; for barge-in, an application can specify that prompt output should be terminated in response to voice input; one such eventuality is where the caller inputs a DTMF tone, which is recognized by appropriate software (column 9, lines 29 to 45: Figure 4); terminating a prompt output is equivalent to a signal that is transmitted "to the remote device to cause the remote device to cease provision of the output response to the user".

Regarding claims 62, 69, and 76, *Hughes et al.* discloses playing out a prompt to a caller (column 8, line 59 to column 9, line 2; column 9, lines 29 to 45: Figure 4); a prompt is "audio data" that is transmitted to the remote device, *i.e.* a caller calling from a telephone.

Regarding claims 64, 71, and 78, *Hughes et al.* discloses that a caller is calling from a telephone ("the remote device") (column 1, lines 8 to 25); implicitly, a caller's telephone is not capable of processing a caller's voice input by speech recognition.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 60, 61, 63, 65, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74, 75, 77, and 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hughes et al.* in view of *Houser et al.*

Concerning claims 61, 63, 68, 70, 75, and 77, *Hughes et al.* discloses a commonly known voice processing system for speech recognition at a remote server from voice input at a caller's telephone that provides audio prompts and has a barge-in facility, but omits transmitting data including video data and a text message. However, it is known to obtain various forms of information by an interface through speech

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recognition, as in management of voice mail by speech recognition from a telephone.

Specifically, *Houser et al.* teaches an information system having a speech interface,

where a terminal unit 16 includes a processor for executing a speech recognition

algorithm to recognize spoken commands for accessing information transmitted by

information distribution system 12. Information distribution system 12 supplies or

broadcasts information to a terminal unit 16, where "information" includes, but is not

limited to, analog video, analog audio, digital video, digital audio, text services, such as

news articles, sports scores, stock market quotations, and weather reports, electronic

messages ("a text message"), electronic program guides, database information, and

software including game programs. (Column 5, Line 39 to Column 6, Line 14: Figure 1)

An objective is to provide a subscriber with access to information by a speech

recognition interface, which enhances the interface by allowing control using language

naturally spoken by the subscriber for implementation of tasks not easily implemented

using menu screens and key presses. (Column 2, Lines 19 to 29) It would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide data to a subscriber in the form

of information including video and a text message as taught by *Houser et al.* in a voice

processing system including a barge-in facility of *Hughes et al.* for a purpose of

providing a subscriber with access to information via a speech recognition interface for

implementing tasks not easily performed by menu screens and key presses.

Concerning claims 60, 67, and 74, *Houser et al.* teaches that terminal unit 16

includes a processor for performing speech recognition of spoken command data for

controlling device 18 (column 5, line 62 to column 6, line 3: Figure 1); vocabularies may

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be provided for spoken control of a television to permit a user to perform basic television controls such as (1) ON/OFF power control commands; (2) volume control; (3) channel selection (column 18, lines 27 to column 19, line 26: Figure 2C); similarly, speech recognition is employed to control an electronic program guide to determine "What's On Cable", or to record programs from a VCR (column 24, line 63 to column 26, line 23: Figure 2C).

Concerning claims 65, 72, and 79, *Houser et al.* teaches that information is retrieved from an information distribution center 12 in response to commands from terminal unit 16 for accessing information transmitted by information distribution center 12 (column 5, line 39 to column 6, line 14: Figure 1); additionally, electronic programming guide (EPG) data is accessed from an information provider 114-3, including television schedule information arranged by time and channel, and transmitted to subscriber units (column 22, line 19 to 51: Figure 2C).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicants' arguments filed 05 June 2007 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure.

White et al. is Applicants' parent patent.

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Nguyen, Mayer, and Harrison et al. disclose barge-in for speech recognition.

7. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office Action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicants are reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

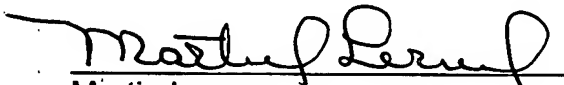
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Lerner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7608. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ML
7/6/07


Martin Lerner
Examiner
Group Art Unit 2626